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PRESS RELEASE

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Woman Sentenced for Fraud, Stealing Checks from Vulnerable Adults

Washington, D.C. – Lacreteria Clay, a former employee of Associated Community Services (ACS), a District of Columbia residential provider for persons with cognitive disabilities pled guilty and was sentenced on June 22, 2010, on criminal fraud charges, United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr. and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Clay, age 41, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to one count of First Degree Felony Fraud and was sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Robert E. Morin. Judge Morin sentenced Clay to 12 months in jail, suspending all but for 4 months, followed by 2 years probation. During the probationary period, Clay may not work with any vulnerable persons, and must pay restitution of more than \$1000. She was also ordered to pay \$100 towards the Victim of Violent Crime Compensation Act fund.

Clay was indicted on 26 counts of Fraud and Theft for her activities between December 2006 and December 2007, where she stole 21 checks from vulnerable adults who resided in homes operated by ACS, where she was a House Manager. Clay was responsible for assisting the residents with their financial transactions, including helping them deposit their checks, earned at supported work programs in the community. She deposited the checks, including 16 from one person, into her own account, and spent the money at the Gap, Macy's, beauty salons, Ticketmaster and Victoria's Secret. Although Clay has paid back all but \$1045 of the more than \$9500 she stole, Judge Morin stated that she deserved punishment because her crimes were "the most egregious fraud and theft that can be committed," since Clay violated the trust of the persons she knew were vulnerable.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Investigator Shante McGee, and Auditor LaShawn Brooks of the

Office of the Inspector General, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Mr. Machen and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Miller who prosecuted the case and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Bieber Kennedy, Director of the MFCU, who assisted.